

FAQ's

What is the procedure for assigning volunteers to specific projects?

YASC and the host community have identified the needs and projects for a particular trip. The Trip Producer and YASC staff will solicit input from volunteers regarding project interests and preferences, individual volunteer skills and abilities, and volunteer ideas for the identified project. Every effort will be made to assign volunteers to a project of their choice but cannot be guaranteed.

Is YASC a for-profit group?

No. YASC is a volunteer-led initiative of the Yale Alumni Association (YAA).

Is YASC a part of Yale Alumni Academy or Yale Educational Travel?

No. The Yale Alumni Service Corps and Yale Alumni Academy are separate entities. In 2021, Yale Educational Travel became Yale Alumni Academy. The Yale Alumni Academy offers travel programs led by Yale faculty and experts.

How do YASC service trips relate to the goals and mission of the University and the Yale Alumni Association?

YASC service trips support the University's goals to enrich and enhance teaching, research, learning and service that explore and contribute to sustainability solutions. The service trips are a part of Yale's mission to provide opportunities for alumni, students, faculty and Yale affiliates to engage and collaborate across disciplines and endeavors to shape a better future.

Is YASC committed to sustainable development?

Yes, YASC is committed to fulfilling Yale's dedication to sustainable development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. For more information about Yale's commitment to its leadership role in sustainability teaching, research, operations and service, see Yale's sustainability website:

<https://sustainability.yale.edu>

May I provide a gift to the service trip community or to individual members of the community?

No. Please do not provide gifts directly to individual members of the community or to local organizations. Personal gifts disrupt the community nature of our work, may establish inequity and disruption, and may establish unrealistic expectations in the community of future gifts.

Is there any way that I can coordinate a gift to the community through YASC?

Yes. If you have an idea for a gift that you would like to make, please discuss it with a member of the YASC staff, the Trip Producer, or a member of the YASC Board. Gifts from volunteers are welcomed by YASC but are provided to the community by YASC as an organization.

How can I donate supplies or materials for a trip?

There may be items needed for particular projects on a service trip. Please coordinate donations of needed project supplies through the Project Leaders.

Is it possible to make a monetary donation directly to YASC?

Yes. Donations may be made to YASC and should be coordinated through YASC staff or a member of the YASC Board.

What is the YASC Service Trip Scholarship Fund?

YASC maintains a fund built with financial donations that enables YASC to offer financial aid assistance for students and/or alumni to participate in a service trip. YASC encourages those volunteers who can to contribute to the fund.

Are scholarships available for the optional excursion trips?

No. YASC does not offer scholarships for the optional excursion trip. Purchasers of the optional excursion trip are ineligible for scholarships for the service program.

How active are the service trips?

The level of strenuous activity can vary. So that all involved may enjoy the experience, participants must be in good physical and mental health and be able to keep up with the pace of the group. YASC retains the right to decline, to accept, or to retain any person as a member of the service trip who, in the opinion YASC is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip. Any condition that may require assistance or medical attention must be received by YASC by the date stated in the service trip brochure. Anyone requiring extraordinary assistance must be accompanied by a companion who is fit and able to assist them and who will be wholly responsible for providing such assistance. Due to liability and their service trip responsibilities, YASC cannot ask project leaders or staff to provide such aid. If you have any questions regarding the fitness level of a particular service trip, please refer to the trip description or contact YASC at 203-432-1952.

I have a busy professional schedule. Will I have time to work during the service trip?

It is the expectation of YASC that its volunteers devote 100% of their time to the program while in the host community and that volunteer use of cell phones/computers will be limited to scheduled program downtime and emergencies only.